



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

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July 8, 2014

Representative Joseph Haveman
351 Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: HB 4891- Liquor Tax

Dear Representative Haveman:

I am writing to share with you and the members of the Appropriations Committee the strong support of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police Association for HB 4891.

With their primary responsibility for maintaining safety within our local communities, our members are well aware of the personal tragedy and the high costs associated with alcohol and drug misuse and dependence. From deaths of our young people in auto accidents to fatal overdoses to crimes committed while under the influence, we see every day the terrible effects alcohol and drug abuse have on both the user and his/her family and friends. As public safety officers, we certainly have a major role to play in helping protect our communities from such harm. But, we also recognize the benefits of having the availability of substance use disorder treatment and prevention services to interrupt the cycle of repeated problems arising from alcohol and drug misuse.

Currently, alcohol is more available than ever and we are seeing a huge increase in the availability of illegal opiates. As a result, creating a reasonable, predictable, and dedicated funding stream for substance use disorder services is critical. HB 4891 will create this funding stream and address the many unmet needs across our state.

Because my members serve on the front lines in dealing the problems caused by alcohol and drugs, we know the potential for reducing crime and turning lives around with ready availability of substance use disorder services. For that reason, we urge the Appropriations Committee to approve HB 4891 and refer it to the full House for approval.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Stevenson
Executive Director

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